

Protecting Financial Data with Zero Trust WiFi at a Korean Securities Firm

Overview

As the Korean subsidiary of a Hong Kong-based investment finance group, this securities firm in Seoul's Yeouido financial district handles personal and financial data that demands a higher standard of security and auditability than most general businesses. Its corporate WiFi needed to meet strict requirements under Korea's Personal Information Protection Act and Electronic Financial Transactions Act, along with financial regulators' security guidelines, covering network access control, user authentication, at least one year of access log retention, incident response, and integrated monitoring. Zyxel Networks, together with partners SK Broadband and UNA Engineering, built a cloud-based, Zero Trust wireless network centered on two-factor user authentication, WiFi 7 access points, and the Zyxel Nebula cloud networking solution, giving the firm enterprise-grade security and centralized oversight without the cost and complexity of building it all in-house.

Customer
Securities Firm in Yeouido

Industry
Financial

Location
Seoul, South Korea

Partner
SK Broadband
UNA Engineering

Challenges

As a financial institution handling personal and financial data, the firm needed a higher bar for security and auditability than typical businesses, meeting Korea's Personal Information Protection Act, Electronic Financial Transactions Act, and financial regulators' security guidelines at once.

Network access control and user authentication were needed to clearly identify who connected to the network, when, and from where, a level of accountability that a shared WPA-PSK password, which authenticates all users with the same password, could not provide. Regulatory compliance also called for retaining at least one year of access history, along with incident response and integrated monitoring capable of detecting and addressing problems across the entire network from a single view.

Customer Background

Based in the IFC Mall in Yeouido, Seoul, this securities firm is the Korean subsidiary of a Hong Kong-headquartered Asian investment finance group, providing securities brokerage, global investment research, and capital markets services to institutional investors at home and abroad.

Solutions

The company adopted Zyxel Networks' solution, featuring Zero Trust principles and centrally managed through the Nebula cloud management platform.

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User authentication runs through Nebula Cloud Authentication Server (NCAS), removing the need for a separate RADIUS server. Employees sign in with their own password and then complete an additional two-step verification based on Google OTP. Authentication and connection records are kept in the cloud for at least one year, supporting financial-sector audits. Visitors use a guest WiFi network fully separated from the business network. Rather than sharing a common WPA-PSK password, each guest receives a temporary voucher code that administrators can limit by validity period and device count, or revoke at any time.

WBE630S WiFi 7 access points bring higher throughput and more stable performance than WiFi 6, supporting 320MHz channel bandwidth, 4K-QAM, and Multi-Link Operation. The office runs on a single WiFi name, so employees authenticate once and roam freely. Smart Steering shifts devices to the best available access point in real time, minimizing drops, while a new roaming dashboard tracks success rate, frequency, signal strength, and roaming time for easier diagnostics.

Nebula manages all connected devices in one dashboard, with real-time status and instant email and mobile alerts. Wireless Health and WiFi Aid automatically diagnose issues, while NCAS handles 802.1X, Captive Portal, voucher, MAC, and DPPSK authentication with up to 365 days of event history. Configuration backup, IP-restricted admin access, automatic reporting, and Open API round out the platform.

Product List

- WBE630S WiFi 7 Access Point
- GS1920-24HPv2 Smart Managed PoE Switch
- USG FLEX 500H Firewall

Results

The new network gives the firm a security posture built for the financial sector, with clear visibility into who accessed the network, when, and where, all while keeping day-to-day WiFi fast and reliable for staff and visitors alike. Staff can move between floors and meeting rooms without losing the WiFi connection, and guests get their own separate access that expires automatically when their visit ends. When auditors ask, the IT team can answer from records already on hand, with a single dashboard to monitor everything in one place.

- Stronger access control through Zero Trust and NCAS-based cloud two-factor authentication (2FA)
- Streamlined network operations and management with Zyxel Nebula Pro Pack
- Stable enterprise WiFi mobility supported by WiFi 7 access points



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